



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

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**Contact: Thomas P. Colantuono**  
**United States Attorney**  
**Alfred Rubega**  
**Assistant U.S. Attorney**  
**(603) 225-1552**

**NEWMARKET MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD CHARGES**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced today that THOMAS N. BYRNES III, 45, of Newmarket, NH, pleaded guilty late yesterday in U. S. District Court in Concord, to a two-count indictment charging him with making false statements in gaining Social Security benefits, and fraudulently use of his son's Social Security number.

Byrnes, who gained an education as a nurse paid for by the Social Security Administration while he was on disability benefits, admitted to concealing the fact that he began working and earning income as a nurse while simultaneously accepting disability benefits, from in and around February of 1999 to in and around November of 2000. The case resulted from an extensive investigation by the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General. Byrnes was indicted in October, 2002.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "Cases of program fraud must be aggressively investigated and prosecuted to insure that program benefits remain available to the intended beneficiaries, in this case, the disabled. This office will also continue to look closely at any misuse of Social Security numbers, a crime which has increasingly become a concern to law enforcement." U.S. Attorney Colantuono highly commended the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General for what he termed the "swift and extremely competent" handling of the investigation which led to yesterday's plea.

Byrnes's sentencing hearing was set by U. S. District Judge Paul Barbadoro for 2:30 P.M. on June 30, 2003. Assistant U. S. Attorney Al Rubega prosecuted this case.